2015
Annual Report

Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory Council

Prince Edward Island
Environmental Advisory Council
11 Kent Street, 4th Floor
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7N8

Honourable Robert Mitchell
Minister of Communities, Land, and Environment
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Mitchell:

In accordance with the requirements of the *Environmental Protection Act*, I have the honor of presenting the Annual Report of the Environmental Advisory Council.

This report covers the period of January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Davies
Chair

Table of Contents

Introduction ..... Page 2

Environmental Advisory Council Terms of Reference ..... Page 2

General Comments ..... Page 3

2015 Science Fair Winners ..... Page 5

2015 PEI Environmental Award Winners ..... Page 6

Appendix A

Environmental Advisory Council 2015 Membership ..... Page 7

Introduction

The Environmental Advisory Council is a group of individuals appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to advise the Minister responsible for the environment on environmental matters.

Environmental Advisory Council Terms of Reference

Subsection 4(2) of the *Environmental Protection Act* sets out the Council's responsibilities. The Act states that

The Council shall

(a) serve as an advisory board to the Minister Responsible for the Environment; and
(b) perform such functions as may be prescribed by regulations.

The mandate for the Environmental Advisory Council as prescribed by the Act is somewhat general in order to be all encompassing. To better define the Environmental Advisory Council's mandate, the following terms of reference were approved by the Minister:

1. To advise the Minister Responsible for the Environment on matters referred to it by the Minister or the public under the *Environmental Protection Act*.
2. To report annually to the Minister on submissions received, research conducted, investigations undertaken and recommendations made under the *Environmental Protection Act*.
3. To advise the Minister on environmental matters related to other provincial strategies and initiatives.
4. To make recommendations to the Minister on conservation or environmental improvement awards.
5. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting opportunities for environmental improvement or protection programs or projects.
6. To recommend to the Minister public education projects or programs.
7. To make recommendations to the Minister respecting support for community, private and non-government programs and projects.
8. To advise the Minister on legislative proposals as they relate to environmental protection and enhancement.
9. To advise the Minister on such matters as the Minister may direct.
10. To perform such functions as may be provided by regulations under clause 4(2)(b) of the Act.

Administrative support for the Council is provided by staff of the Department of Communities, Land and Environment.

General Comments

Council held four regular meetings during 2015, together with a number of special meetings of a subcommittee of Council to address the Environmental Awards, and Science Fair and the *Water Act* public and one-on-one consultations.

Meeting Outlines

A list of the speakers who met with the Council in 2015, and the discussion topics addressed, is presented in the table below.

Meeting	***Guests/Speakers***	***Issues Discussed***
Jan. 20, 2015	Todd Dupuis Jim Young	*State of the Environment and High Capacity Wells* *Water Act White Paper and Website*
Apr. 14, 2015	Dr. Adam Fenech	*Update on the work of the UPEI Climate Lab*
June 15, 2015	Todd Dupuis	*Update Water Act White Paper and Website*
Sept. 23, 2015	Todd Dupuis, Jim Young, Tony Sturz	*Update Water Act White Paper and Website*

Other Matters

During the year, Council members discussed in a variety of settings and sessions the environmental issues that related to the development of a *Water Act* for Prince Edward Island. These included but were not limited to

- developing a consultation process for a *Water Act*;
- general aspects of water conservation and protection;
- the current state of water quantity and quality in Prince Edward Island; and
- watershed management.

Public Consultations for the Water Act White Paper

Over the period September 24 - December 7, 2015 a special panel drawn from the Environmental Advisory Council, hosted a comprehensive series of public consultations to provide all residents of the province with the opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings as to how government, businesses, communities and individuals can protect and manage our water resources. The results of these consultations will be used to create a *Water Act* for Prince Edward Island.

Islanders could submit their ideas to the Environmental Advisory Council by

- e-mail,
- Facebook,
- Twitter,
- regular mail,
- phone line, and
- public consultations.

Over the course of the consultation period[1] the consultation panel received information through the following channels:

- Public consultation sessions: 46
- One-to-one consultation sessions: 14
- Online comments: 61
- Written submissions from stakeholders: 14

A report detailing the findings of these consultations is being prepared.

[1] Due to the amount of public interest the deadline for public consultations was extended. Information provided includes all submissions received up to and including January 15, 2016.

2015 Science Fair Winners

The Environmental Advisory Council takes an active interest in the annual Provincial Science Fair sponsored by the University of Prince Edward Island. Involvement has included helping judge and award prizes to participants whose projects demonstrate a high level of understanding or innovative approaches to environmental issues. The **Dr. Leon Loucks Environmental Awards** were presented to entries in the junior, intermediate and senior categories with prize money of $80, $50 and $30 awarded to first, second and third place winners respectively. The 2015 winners are as follows:

DR. LEON LOUCKS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Elementary:
First
Coliform Bacteria in Water
Students: Courtney Black and Hannah Silliker
School: Somerset Elementary

Second
EWW, Gross Algae!
Student: Rachel VandenBroek
School: Cardigan Consolidated

Third
Trouble with Green Crabs
Students: Liam Chatfield and Liam Craig
School: West Royalty Elementary

Junior:
First
Does the Colour of a Solar Panel Affect the Intake and Output of Heat?
Students: Paige Arden and Shianne Adams
School: Kensington Intermediate Senior High

Second
Eau ou Glace?
Students: André Arsenault and William Mitchell
School: Ecole Evangeline

Third

Gatorade vs Water - Which is better for Exercise?
Students: Abbey Saunders and Isabel Wagner
School: Queen Charlotte Intermediate

There were no submissions in the Senior category.

PEI Environmental Award Winners

Since its inception in 1987, the Environmental Advisory Council has recognized citizens for their special commitment to the environment through the PEI Environmental Awards.

In June 2015, Prince Edward Island Environmental Awards were presented to the following:

School Award

Kinkora Regional High School

Kinkora Regional High School is home to the Academy Diploma Program in Agriculture. Among the many initiatives that they support, students and staff plant trees, tour wildlife areas, learn about wind energy, raise money to purchase school gardens in Africa, participate in a school yard clean-up, host no litter lunch days, grow small-scale agriculture crops, and grow and provide vegetables for the school's cafeteria.

Individual Award

Joyce MacKay of Kensington

Joyce MacKay of Kensington received recognition for her substantial donation of forested land for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations of Islanders. In 2014, she donated 123 acres of woodland in Indian River as an Eco-Gift to the Island Nature Trust. Ms. MacKay has been a life-long champion for conservation on Prince Edward Island – continually investing in and promoting soil conservation projects.

Organization Award

Eastern Kings Community Council

Eastern Kings Community Council received the award for many reasons including its strong environmental vision set forth in their official planning, and for increasing their buffer zones from 15 to 60 metres within four of their watersheds.

Appendix A

Environmental Advisory Council

2015 Membership

Richard Davies, Chair
Belle River

Dean Stewart, Vice-Chair
Summerside

Wayne Gallant
Summerside

Art Smith
Stratford

Lokesh Garg
Charlottetown

Irene Dawson
Cornwall

Nick Webb
O'Leary

Darlene Moore
Northam

Bertha Campbell
Kensington (resigned March, 2015)

Ron Maynard
Tyne Valley

Paul Gallant
Souris

Title Page: Hawthorn *(Crataegus oxyacantha)*
Print Credit: Flora von Deutschland Österreich und der Schweiz (1885)
Otto Wilhelm Thomé http://caliban.mpiz-koeln.mpg.de/thome/index.html